

Message Text

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54

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

L-03 INR-07 CIAE-00 PRS-01 ARAE-00 DODE-00 AID-05

/076 W

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P 111726Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 755

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 2007

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, GT, BH, UK

SUBJ: BELIZE: UK-GUATEMALA TALKS PROBABLY WEEK OF APRIL 19

REF: STATE 43014

1. EMBOFF ASKED BRITISH CONSUL MCQUILLAN MARCH 10 FOR LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON RESUMPTION OF UK-GUATEMALA NEGOTIATIONS ON BELIZE DISPUTE. MCQUILLAN SAID THAT IN EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE EARLIEST POSSIBLE RE-SCHEDULING, UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ROWLANDS HAD SENT FONMIN MOLINA LETTER DATED MARCH 3. LETTER (SHOWN EMBOFF) EXPRESSED SYMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING FOR EARTHQUAKE CONDITIONS BUT SAID HMG THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT HOLD AT LEAST A "PRELIMINARY" MEETING ASAP SO THAT UK COULD PRESENT PROPOSALS FOR GOG CONSIDERATION. SINCE GUATEMALAN REACTION NOT NECESSARY AT THAT MEETING, IT NEED TAKE ONLY ONE DAY, SO FONMIN'S ABSENCE FROM GUATEMALA NEED NOT BE PROLONGED. ROWLANDS PROPOSED THEY MEET IN NEW ORLEANS MARCH 15.

2. ON ABOUT MARCH 5, MCQUILLAN TOLD ORALLY BY GUATEMALANS COULD MEET IN EARLY APRIL IF BELIZE REPRESENTATIVES DID NOT PARTICIPATE. IF HMG INSISTED ON BELIZEAN PARTICIPATION, GOG COULD NOT MEET WITH UK BEFORE END OF APRIL. ASTONISHED, MCQUILLAN ASKED WHAT DIFFERENCE
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BELIZEAN PARTICIPATION MADE IN REGARD TO THE TIMING. FONOFF TOLD

HIM BELIZEANS COULD CAUSE MEETING TO BECOME "CONTENTIOUS" AND PROTRACTED.

3. MCQUILLAN QUERIED LONDON AND INFORMED GUATEMALANS MARCH 8 THAT EXCLUDING BELIZEANS WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION. HE ALSO STRESSED THAT PRESSURES, PARTICULARLY THOSE STEMMING FROM BRITISH ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, WERE "MOUNTING DAILY" ON HMG TO SETTLE FUTURE OF BELIZE, AND THAT IT IS IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST TO AVOID FURTHER DELAY IN WORKING OUT SETTLEMENT. ON MARCH 10 HE RECEIVED LETTER DATED MARCH 9 FROM MOLINA TO ROWLANDS, PROPOSING PRELIMINARY MEETING ON APRIL 19 IN NEW ORLEANS. MCQUILLAN NOTED THAT APRIL 19 IS BRITISH HOLIDAY, AS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY INFORMED GOG, BUT HE THOUGHT THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON DATE LATER IN THE WEEK, PERHAPS APRIL 22. HE SAID THIS WAS AT LEAST SOME IMPROVEMENT OVER END OF APRIL, AND NOTED THAT GUATEMALAN LETTER MADE NO MENTION OF BELIZEAN PARTICIPATION, WHICH HE TOOK TO MEAN THAT THEY HAD DROPPED THEIR OBJECTION.

4. MCQUILLAN SAID HE HAD CONFIRMED TO GUATEMALAN FONOFF THAT COMPANY OF IRISH RANGERS HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM BELIZE (REFTTEL). GOG HAD TAKEN OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM HIM THAT "VIRTUALLY ALL" OF ITS MILIARY FORCES HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM THE PETEN DEPARTMENT WHICH ADJOINS BELIZE. WHEN MCQUILLAN ASKED FOR DETAILS, HE WAS TOLD A RIFLE COMPANY OF 180 MEN AND AN "ARTILLERY UNIT" HAD BEEN MOVED TO OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

5. MCQUILLAN SAID HMG HAD DECIDED TO DONATE \$500,000 TO UNICEF, EARMARKED FOR GUATEMALAN RELIEF, BUT HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO MAKE SURE GOG HAD NO OBJECTION BEFIRE IT MADE DONATION. HE IS AWAITING GOG'S REPLY.

6. COMMENT: DATT'S INFORMATION WITHDRAWAL OF TWO COMPANY SIZED UNITS FROM THE PETEN. ONE SOURCE REPORTED THAT ONE OF THE COMPANY-SIZED UNITS INCLUDED HEAVY WEAPONS. BASED ON OUR PRE-EARTHQUAKE INFORMATION - UNLESS TROOPS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN OF WHICH WE ARE NOT AWARE - WE ASSUME THAT AT LEAST TWO INFANTRY COMPANIES AND THEIR SUPPORTING FORCES REMAIN IN THE PETEN; APPROXIMATELY 800-900 TROOPS IN ALL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BOUNDARY CLAIMS, NEGOTIATIONS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 11 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Comment: n/a
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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04 MAY 2006

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